



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 163

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2017

No. 188

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Reverend Robert Hughes, Broadway Presbyterian Church, Sedalia, Missouri, offered the following prayer:

Awesome and merciful God, we thank You that we can approach You directly in prayer, fully aware that prayer is not a shield protecting us from all evil but, rather, a reminder, first and foremost, that You alone are God, creator, redeemer, and sustainer of all, and we are not.

Gracious Lord, in ancient times King Solomon asked only for wisdom, not fame, fortune, or influence. Instead, he longed for godly wisdom. Whether as parent, teacher, minister, elected official, or in any other position of leadership, help us to lead with godly wisdom.

Heavenly God, as I proclaim Your threefold unity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, individual, yet eternally united as one God, I pray that this Nation, the United States, be also unified, respecting and valuing the individual, yet eternally united as one nation, under God, indivisible. It is in Your name, I pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BROWN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BROWN of Maryland led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND ROBERT HUGHES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Reverend Robert Hughes of Sedalia, Missouri, for his leadership in the faith community.

After beginning his career in film and television, working for media companies like Disney and National Geographic, Reverend Hughes left show business to do God's business. He entered the ministry, which led him to Sedalia, in Missouri's Fourth Congressional District, where he serves as the pastor at Broadway Presbyterian Church.

Reverend Hughes is well loved by the members of his congregation, and he uses his time and talents to energize others about God's Word. It was my honor to recommend him as guest chaplain to lead the House in prayer this morning.

Reverend Hughes, thank you for your devotion to your community and congregation and for bringing inspiration and encouragement to those you serve. May God bless everything you set your hand to. Your service to God and your church is appreciated.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK). The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF STAFF SERGEANT RICHARD HUNTER

(Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the bravery of one of my constituents and an American hero, Staff Sergeant Richard Hunter. Staff Sergeant Hunter was recently awarded the Air Force Cross in recognition of his outstanding courage in the line of duty.

Staff Sergeant Hunter was deployed to Kunduz province, Afghanistan, as part of the U.S. Army Special Forces team. On November 2, 2016, his team found themselves under heavy machine-gun fire from insurgents. Despite the barrage of enemy fire, Hunter charged forward to shield the wounded and, ultimately, repelled the enemy's encroachment. He initiated the launch of the quick reaction force and casualty airlift for wounded members in his group.

After discovering an injured fellow Special Force soldier, Hunter dragged him 30 meters to safety with one hand, while he directed radio airstrikes with his other. When they fell under fire once again, Hunter eliminated the threat, and helped load the wounded into a helicopter to be evacuated. In total, Staff Sergeant Hunter's actions that day eliminated 27 enemy forces and saved his team.

For these measures of extraordinary bravery in the most dire of circumstances, Staff Sergeant Richard Hunter earned the Air Force Cross award. Without his help, many American servicemembers surely would have been lost that day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the heroic actions of Staff Sergeant Richard Hunter, a true American hero.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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